



MAYES

By the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deanes, and their Officials, Parsons, Vicars, Curats, and to all spirituall persons. And also to all Iustices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Constables, Churchwardens and Headboroughes: And to all Officers of Citties, Bozoughes, and Townes corpozate: And to all other our Officers, Ministers, and Subjects whatsover they be, as well within Liberties, as without, to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

Wherby we are credibly given to understand, as well by the humble Supplication and Petition of our poore distressed Subject Thomas Davis of the Parish of Stepney, in our County of Middlesex Tanner, as also by a Certificate under the handes of the Inhabitants of St. Katherine, in the Parish of Stepney aforesaid, being subscribed by our trusty and welbeloued Subjects Sir Allen Apsey Knight, Lieutenant of our Tower of London, Sir John Keye, and Sir John Lee Knights, and Thomas Sander-

derfon Esquier, Iustices of the Peace within our aforesaid County: That our poore Subject Thomas Davis, hath alwayes bene a man of honest life and conuersation, and a painfull and industrious person in his vocation, whereby he maintained himselfe and family in good sort: but he is now fallen into great want and poverty, by reason of a lamentable and fearefull Fire hapning on the Twi and Twentieth day of May last past in the night time, which consumed and burnt downe to the ground, not onely his Barkehouse and other out housing thereunto adioyning, but also lost in Barke, Leather, by Prydes, Skinneres, toles and other implements, to the value of one hundred Markes, to the utter undoing of our said poore Subject, who before this untimely accident lived well and gaue reliefe unto others, but hath little or no meanes now left to helpe himselfe being aged and past labour, nor to sustaine his poore Wife and Childzen who live in great want, and are like to continue the rest of their dayes in great misery, unless they be charitably holpen and relieved by the good deuotion and beneuolence of our louing and well disposed Subjects, in this their great necessitie.

Wherfore, that of Our especiall Grace and Princely compassion, we haue giuen and granted, and by these our Letters Patents doe giue and graunt vnto our said poore Subject Thomas Davis, and to his Deputy and Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, full power, Licence, and Authority, to aske, gather, receiue, and take the Almes, and charitable beneuolence of all our louing Subjects whatsover, Inhabiting within our Countie of Middlesex, and Essex, and in all Townes Corpozate, Priuiledged places, Parishes, Villages, and in all other places whatsover, within our said Countie, and not else where, for and towards the recovery of his said losses, and the reliefe and maintenance of himselfe, his poore Wife, and Family.

Wherfore we will and Command you and every of you, that at such time and times as the said Thomas Davis, or his Deputy or Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, shall come and repaire to any your Churches, Chappels, or other places, to aske, and receiue, the gratuities and charitable beneuolence of our said Subjects, quietly to permit, and suffer them so to doe, without any manner your lets, and contradictions. And you the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curates, for the better stirring up of a Charitable deuotion, deliberately to publish and declare, the Tenor of these our Letters Patents vnto our said Subjects vpon some Sabbath day, when as the same shall be tendered vnto you, Exhorting and perswading them to extend their liberall contributions in so good and charitable a trade. And you the Churchwardens of every Parish, where such Collection is to be made as aforesaid, to Collect and gather the Almes and charitable beneuolence of all our louing Subjects, as well Strangers as others, and what shall be by you so gathered to deliuer it to the bearer or bearers of these our Letters Patents, and to no other person when as thereunto you shall be required. And lastly, whereas we are informed of the great abuse which is now crept in amongst these poore people, who sell their Licences vnto some other person, whereby mens charity goeth not the right way but vnto such as deserue it least: That from henceforth our will and pleasure is, that if it may appeare vnto you or any of you that the said Thomas Davis, haue contracted any bargaine, or made or shall make sale of these our Letters Patents, whereby the benefit should passe from him to any other person, That thereupon these our Letters Patents shall be voyde and of none effect, Any Statute, Law, Ordinance, or Provision heretofore made to the contrary, in any wise notwithstanding.

In witnesse whereof, we haue caused these our Letters to be made Patents for the space of One whole yeare next after the date hereof to endure. Witness our selfe at Westminster, the Twentieth day of November, in the Eighteenth yeare of our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland: And of Scotland the Foure and fiftieth.

Steward

God saue the King

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Cum Priuilegio.